

Mansfield Board of Education Meeting
March 10, 2011
Minutes

Attendees: Mark LaPlaca, Chair, Shamim Patwa, Vice-Chair, Martha Kelly, Secretary, Min Lin, Holly Matthews, Ed Neumann, Katherine Paulhus, Randy Walikonis, Superintendent Fred Baruzzi, Board Clerk, Celeste Griffin

Absent: Carrie Silver-Bernstein

The meeting was called to order at 7:33pm by Mr. LaPlaca.

HEARING FOR VISITORS: None

COMMUNICATIONS: None

ADDITIONS TO THE PRESENT AGENDA: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Personnel Committee: Ms. Patwa reported the committee is continuing negotiations with the Secretaries Association and the Instructional Assistants Union. Teacher of Year: Mrs. Kelly reported that the District Teacher of Year Committee has begun its process for selection the 2011 Teacher of Year. Goodwin Bequest Committee: Mrs. Kelly reported that Claire Green's *Clean Up Mansfield City Road from Rte. 32 to Hunters Run* has been completed. She read a communication from Jim Greene regarding the completion of the project.

TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING UPDATE: Mr. LaPlaca reported on the meeting which was held on March 1, 2011. The Council voted to proceed to referendum on May 24, 2011 with two schools and the middle school renovations with the provision that the elementary school sites are designated no later than March 14, 2011.

MANSFIELD MIDDLE STUDENT ASSOCIATION (MMSA): Students from the Middle School Student Council discussed their interest in the council and the various activities they sponsored at the school.

Carrie Silver-Bernstein arrived at 8:01pm.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:

- Mansfield Middle School Writing Center Update: Tara Achane, Writing Center teacher, discussed the program and its success with students.
- MAC Community Conversation: Sandra Baxter and Gloria Bent from the Mansfield Advocates for Children discussed the Community Conversation which will be held on March 26, 2011 in the Council Chambers.
- District Wellness Policy Advisory Council's Recommendation: Beth Gankofskie, Director of Food Services, reported on the District Wellness Policy Advisory Council's work and presented a list of recommendations. MOTION by Ms. Patwa, seconded by Mrs. Paulhus to endorse the recommendations from the Mansfield Public Schools Wellness Policy Advisory Council. VOTE: Unanimous in favor.
- February Calendar Change: Mr. Baruzzi reported on the absences due to the change in calendar.
- 2009-2010 Strategic School Profile: The SSP is not available from the State Department of Education. It will be discussed at a future meeting.
- Health Benefit Cooperative: Mr. Baruzzi reported he attended a meeting at EASTCONN to discuss the possibility of pooling health-care costs. He will attend follow up meetings.
- Enhancing Student Achievement: Mr. Baruzzi reviewed one additional proposal which will be implemented at the schools in support of this activity.
- Class Size/Enrollment: The principals reported no significant changes.

- Geno's Reading Team: Linda Robinson, Library Media Coordinator, announced the Geno's Reading Team Pep Rally on March 12, 2011 at Gampel Pavillion. All schools participated in the Geno's Reading Team Program.

NEW BUSINESS: None

CONSENT AGENDA: MOTION by Mr. Walikonis, seconded Ms. Patwa that the following item for the Board of Education meeting of March 10, 2011 be approved or received for the record with an edit to include names of visitors with Youth Services Bureau on the February 10, 2011 minutes: VOTE: Unanimous in favor.

That the Mansfield Public Schools Board of Education approves the minutes of the February 10, 2011 Board meetings.

HEARING FOR VISITORS: None

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA: Ms. Patwa would like discussion on redistricting process. Mr. LaPlaca would like a clear understanding of what can and cannot be said or communicated regarding a referendum.

MOTION: Mrs. Paulhus, seconded by Mr. Walikonis to move into Executive Session to discuss non-renewal of teachers and contract negotiations; discussion regarding strategy with respect to pending complaint/litigation; complaint filed with Office of Civil Rights, No. 01-10-1269. VOTE: Unanimous in favor
The Board moved into Executive Session with Mr. Baruzzi in attendance at 9:29pm.

The Board returned to Open Session at 9:54pm. MOTION by Ms. Patwa, seconded Ms. Lin to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent regarding non-renewal of teachers. VOTE: Unanimous in favor with Ms. Paulhus abstaining.

MOTION by Mr. Neumann, seconded Mrs. Paulhus, to adjourn at 9:55pm. VOTE: Unanimous in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Celeste N. Griffin, Board Clerk